

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus,  
comprising:

a fixing ~~means~~ unit which fixes a toner image transferred on  
a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5 a fixing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which controls  
the fixing ~~means~~ unit, and

an image printing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which  
controls printing of the toner image,

wherein the fixing ~~means~~ unit has:

10 ~~an~~ a first operation mode for starting energization of the  
fixing ~~means~~ unit after an initialization in the image printing  
control ~~means~~ unit is completed; and

~~another~~ a second operation mode for starting energization of  
the fixing ~~means~~ unit before ~~an~~ the initialization in the image  
15 printing control ~~means~~ unit is completed.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in  
claim 1, wherein either one of the two operation modes is  
performed at ~~the~~ at least one of a time when an electric power  
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on ~~or at the~~ and  
5 a time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power  
consumption mode.

3. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus,  
comprising:

a fixing ~~means~~ unit which fixes a toner image transferred on  
a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5 a fixing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which controls  
the fixing ~~means~~ unit,

an image printing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which  
controls printing of the toner image, and

10 an interface which is mounted on the fixing ~~means~~ unit and  
is capable of receiving data from a data input ~~means~~ unit,

wherein the fixing ~~means~~ unit has:

15 ~~an~~ a first operation mode for starting energization of the  
fixing ~~means~~ unit by making reference to the data received  
through the interface from ~~a~~ the data input ~~means~~ unit after an  
initialization in the image printing control ~~means~~ unit is  
completed; and

~~another~~ a second operation mode for starting energization of  
the fixing ~~means~~ unit before ~~an~~ the initialization in the image  
printing control ~~means~~ unit is completed.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in  
claim 3, wherein either one of the two operation modes is  
performed at ~~the~~ at least one of a time when an electric power  
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on ~~or at the~~ and

5    a time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power consumption mode.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is provided independently of the fixing ~~means~~ unit and is ~~allowed to connect with~~ connectable to the interface through a communication cable.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is mounted in an operation/display section of the image printing apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data inputted by the data input ~~means~~ unit includes pieces of information ~~in relation~~ related to at least one of: a load individual operation mode, a process mode used in  
5    a manufacturing process, and a service mode used ~~upon an~~ in after-sale ~~service~~ servicing.

8. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus, comprising:

a fixing ~~means~~ unit which fixes a toner image transferred on a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5           a fixing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which controls  
the fixing ~~means~~ unit,

          an image printing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit which  
controls printing of the toner image, and

          an interface which is mounted on the fixing ~~means~~ unit and  
10 is capable of receiving data from a data input ~~means~~ unit,

          wherein the fixing ~~means~~ unit has:

~~an~~ a first operation mode for judging whether or not  
starting energization of the fixing ~~means~~ unit after an  
initialization in the image printing control ~~means~~ unit is  
15 completed; and

~~another~~ a second operation mode for judging whether or not  
starting energization of the fixing ~~means~~ unit before ~~an~~ the  
initialization in the image printing control ~~means~~ unit is  
completed.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in  
claim 8, wherein either one of the two operation modes is  
performed at ~~the~~ at least one of a time when an electric power  
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on ~~or at the~~ and  
5 a time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power  
consumption mode.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is provided independently of the fixing ~~means~~ unit and is ~~allowed to connect with~~ connectable to the interface through a communication cable.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is mounted in an operation/display section of the image printing apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data inputted by the data input ~~means~~ unit includes pieces of information ~~in relation~~ related to at least one of: a load individual operation mode, a process mode used in a manufacturing process, and a service mode used ~~upon an~~ in after-sale ~~service~~ servicing.

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